

of his misfortunes, which he will be unable to introduce into a book intended for general reading.

In the year 1831, he employed himself, and as many of his companions in misfortune as had escaped the danger of being swallowed by the waves, or the equally imminent peril of forming a part of a meal for some of the cannibal Feegees, in building a schooner, in order to trade with the neighbouring islands. Whilst thus occupied he struck himself with the handle of an axe upon the right testicle. He was disabled from work at once, and the organ began to swell. In about three months it became very hard, and larger than he could grasp with his two hands, and being unable to walk without great difficulty, he put himself in the hands of a native surgeon, who recommended excision as the only remedy. The operator is obliged, by the laws, to practise upon pigs until he is considered sufficiently qualified to perform upon human subjects.

The preparatory treatment consisted in feeding the patient as much as possible for two or three days previously, and immediately before the operation he was compelled to make a hearty meal.

He was placed upon a bed of fresh leaves, and the surgeon, (using for his instrument the patient's razor,) made an incision about seven inches in length down the front of the tumour, simply cutting through the integument. The second incision of the same length, and in the same direction, penetrated the tunica vaginalis, and a quantity of clear fluid gushed out, revealing the nature of the malady. The patient, who watched every step of the operation, seeing his testicle of a natural size at the back of this large sac which was laid open, wished the operator to desist at this stage, but he was assured that the disease would return if it was not completed. The savage then seized hold of the gland with his fingers, and dragging it out of its situation, whipped it off at a stroke of the razor; and then, being well satisfied with his success, he held up the excised organ between his finger and thumb saying, "Shall I roast it and eat it?"

No after-treatment was adopted. He was kept cool, and not allowed to move hand or foot.

On the fifth day he was washed by having cold water thrown over him, but the hæmorrhage continued until the tenth day, when it stopped spontaneously. When he was not too faint from loss of blood, in this interval, he could hear the blood spinning out against the vine leaves which formed his bed. The wound contracted and ultimately healed up.

The disease then recurred upon the left side, and attained a large size, but having learnt a little by his former experience, he used to tap it himself with a lancet, and a quill, and this he performed at intervals varying from three to twelve months, twenty-seven times. Upon the last occasion he was startled whilst in the act of making the puncture, and "injured" himself. This led to the formation of hæmatocele.

He arrived in New Zealand in 1846, and was tapped again, and the sac was afterwards injected, and the disease cured.

After the excision of the right testicle, the King of the Feegees used to visit him daily, having told the surgeon that if the patient died, he should be killed, and the patient buried on the top of him.

On examining him I found a scar the result of

the incision made by the native operator, and the left side of the scrotum covered with the scars of the twenty-seven punctures. The left testicle is high up and behind; in front of it is a very hard and oblong tumour, about two inches in length and one in breadth, which he says is the result of the puncture which produced the effusion of blood into the tunica vaginalis. It is very probably a deposit of fibrin, which has become organized. It is productive of no inconvenience, except that it compels him to wear a suspensory bandage, and he informs me that the function of the remaining testicle has escaped unscathed from all the numerous dangers which it has incurred.

THE WARM BATH IN DROPSY AFTER SCARLET FEVER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

In your "General Retrospect," 28th July, you state:—"Dr. Golding Bird remarks, that as a prophylactic remedy the warm bath is invaluable in the treatment of dropsy after scarlet fever. He scarcely recollects a case occurring, where the warm bath was daily used, as soon as the skin began to exfoliate and continued until a healthy perspiring surface was obtained." I have for many years employed warm baths, as here recommended; but several cases of dropsy having occurred under the treatment, I found that it happened in cases where the bath failed to produce *speedy* exfoliation of the skin. I then used and for some years have continued to employ, a modification of the warm bath, and with uniform success. I direct a quantity of bran to be scalded, the bath then reduced to proper temperature, and continued friction to be kept up with handfuls of the bran during the immersion. The skin is speedily removed.

Yours obediently,

THOS. H. SMITH.

St. Mary's Cray, Kent.

RAPE PERPETRATED ON A FEMALE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ÆTHER.

That which had been suspected as a probable result on the introduction of the new narcotizing agent, has, according to the *Gazette Médicale*, actually occurred in Paris. Last week a female went to a dentist to have a tooth extracted. He advised that it should be stopped, and, to avoid the pain of the operation, recommended his patient to inhale the vapour of æther. What passed while the female was under the influence of the vapour may be inferred from the following facts:—The young female was observed to leave the dentist's house about three hours after she had entered it in a very disordered state. This attracted the attention of her employer, who could not account for her long absence. The injured party, notwithstanding the stupefying effects of the æther, retained some recollection of what had passed, and from some words which fell from her,

suspicion was immediately excited. She was examined by a physician, who reported that her person had been violated.

The dentist has been arrested, and is about to be prosecuted for the offence.—*Gaz. Med., Juillet 31, in London Medical Gazette.*

MEDICAL ETHICS.

In consequence of a paper on Medical Ethics, read by Mr. Allen, of Manchester, before the Medical Society of that town, another Society is in course of organization to carry out the objects contemplated in Mr. Allen's paper.

At a meeting of medical men on the 2nd of August, Dr. Radford in the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

It was proposed by Thomas Dorrington, Esq., and seconded by Dr. Aikenhead:—

"That this meeting considers it desirable to form a Society to be called the 'Manchester Medico-Ethical Association,' the objects of which shall be to support the respectability of the medical profession, and promote good feeling amongst its members, by framing and adopting a code of etiquette, and by appointing a governing body to enforce the same, arbitrate upon disputed points, and adopt all such measures as appear best calculated to effect the above objects."

Proposed by S. Crompton, Esq., and seconded by D. Noble, Esq.:—

"That the following gentlemen be appointed a Provisional Committee for the purpose of framing laws and regulations for the government of the Society, and suggesting a code of etiquette for its adoption, viz.:—Dr. J. L. Bardsley, Dr. Radford, Dr. Browne, W. J. Wilson, Esq., D. Noble, Esq., S. Crompton, Esq., T. Dorrington, Esq., T. Nursaw, Esq., T. Mellor, Esq., Dr. Aikenhead, and R. Allen, Esq."

Proposed by Thomas Nursaw, Esq., and seconded by D. Lynch, Esq.:—

"That the Provisional Committee shall at its discretion convene a meeting by advertisement of the members of the profession, resident in Manchester and its neighbourhood, for the purpose of receiving the result of their labours, constituting the Association, and electing the officers thereof."

Medical Intelligence.

APPOINTMENTS.

Robert Bentley, Esq., M.R.C.S., has been appointed Lecturer of Botany at the Medical School of the London Hospital, in the room of Mr. E. J. Quekett, deceased.

The King of the Belgians has created M. Orfila an officer of the Civil order of Leopold.

The King of Denmark has conferred the Grand Cross of the Order of Dannebrog, a dignity to which is attached the title of Excellency, on Baron Berzelius.

IRISH MEDICAL MEN.

Through the intervention of Dr. Whateley, Archbishop of Dublin, the sum of £500 has been given from the amount collected in this country for the relief of Ireland, towards a fund for the widows and orphans of those medical men who fall a sacrifice through their attendance upon fever.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

The triennial prize of £300, under the will of the late Sir Astley Cooper, Bart., deceased, for the year 1847, has been awarded by the physicians and surgeons of Guy's Hospital, to Dr. Richard Halahan, son of the late Professor Halahan, of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland. The prize was given for the best essay on the Uses and Structure of the Super-renal Capsules.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE JACKSONIAN PRIZE.

The Council of the College of Surgeons have announced that the subject for competition amongst the members for the Jacksonian Prize for the ensuing year is "Diseases of the Mammary Gland, Male and Female, and the Treatment thereof."

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Licentiates Thursday, July 22, 1847:—John White Bridgeman; Robert Baker.

Gentlemen admitted Licentiates Thursday, July 29th.—James Herbert Budd, Guildford; Henry Bate, Truro; William Brook Charles Maxwell; Hugh Hastings, Stockenchurch; Edw. McDonnell, Culenton

OBITUARY.

Died, July 24th, at Saffron Walden, aged 38, Thos. Mickley, Esq.

Lately, at Paris, aged 52, M. Texier, Physician to the Household of his Majesty the King of the French, and Surgeon to the National Guard.

At Birmingham, from fever, Henry Bunn, Esq., one of the District Surgeons. The salary of the office, which Mr. Bunn had only held six months, is £20 per annum.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. E. F. Dehane; Mr. T. C. Girtin; Dr. C. E. H. Orpen; Mr. T. H. Smith; Mr. Bartrum; M.R.C.S.; Dr. Pickford; Mr. A. Pritchard; Dr. W. Gill; Dr. J. R. Wardell; Dr. Carlyon; Mr. R. Allen.

M.R.C.S. may rest assured that the statement in his letter is altogether without foundation, and if he will favour us with his name and address, we will give him better authority than that of an anonymous informer that it is so.